

U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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FIELD DIARY

Biological <sup>OF</sup> Survey  
Elk Ranch, at  
Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Jackson, Wyo.

(Official title.)

1915.

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8-833

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James Wilson

Secretary of Agriculture.

8-833

### Biological Survey Elk Ranch Jackson, Wyo.

The needs of the elk ranch have been somewhat neglected but with care and forethought this can be made one of the most interesting & attractive spots in the country.

It will soon be on good automobile roads through the Yellowstone Park and should be considered a part of our great Park system.

It is ideally located for a demonstration of the practical value of raising elk for market & home use and for stocking preserves and national forests.

Public Land -

40. NE<sup>4</sup> SE<sup>4</sup> Sec. 11 T. 41 N R. 16 W.  
80. SW<sup>4</sup> SE<sup>4</sup> + SE<sup>4</sup> SW<sup>4</sup> Sec. 13 " "  
40. SW<sup>4</sup> SE<sup>4</sup> Sec. 22, " "

Tracts included in the area of Elk Ranch and vacant land that someone will buy & make trouble over. Should be withdrawn at once and purchased or proclaimed game refuge.

The SE boundary of refuge should be extended from corner of <sup>sections</sup> 26, 27, 34, 35 half a mile S. to the quarter corner between 34 & 35, and straight east 2 miles to range line and north  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles to private claim, thence west  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to top present line of refuge.

This takes in a lot of good winter range for elk where several hundred winter each year and do not come down to feed.

None of this tract is agricultural land  
or even well fit for settlement.  
It is too steep for stock to graze  
and the timber is not much good  
on the cold slopes. It should be  
withdrawn and made a part of elk ranch  
or else put into Nat. Forest.

The line really should go east to  
join the Nat. Forest.

A few deer winter <sup>herd</sup> on this tract  
and it would make an ideal little  
elk summer range for a domestic  
elk herd. + a few moose <sup>buffalo + antelope</sup> + Mt. Sheep.

A few blue grouse live on top of this  
tract but there is a good opening  
in it.

A fence is greatly needed along the road to save the grass on the butte, which is now included in the elk ranch - (all except 80 acres that should be added). The warm slopes of this ridge are the favorite ground of the main herd that is being fed and they are rarely covered with snow.

At present the grass is grazed close in summer by the town horses and cattle which water at the big springs. About 2 miles of fence would keep stock out of this area and cut off all watering places so they would not range out this way from town. Mr. Nowlin estimates that this range would be equal to 75 tons of hay a year but it would also save many calves & weak elk that die here because they do not get down to the hay. It would also protect the big springs from



being disturbed by stock and campers  
and travel along the road as  
now a side road leads down to  
them. These are wonderful waterbird  
refuges in winter and breeding  
grounds in summer & should be  
given as full protection as possible.

This fence would cost about  
460 dollars - - -  
and should be made of two rails and  
two wires on back stakes, nearly to  
turn stock. This is the type of fence  
on the east of the ranch.

The timber should be gotten out  
this winter.

Wine & Staphs about 60

Bucks & poles 400.

Can be built by the 2 men on the place.

## Paint-

The roofs of all the buildings on the place are badly in need of painting. No paint has ever been put on anything on the ranch. -

The buildings, house, office, shop, and barn are all of smooth peeled logs or hewed logs with corners & casings & good shingle roofs but they would look better & last much longer if well painted. It would only be necessary to buy the materials as two men are kept on the place & could do all the painting between other work.

Teams - There is one good team on the Elk Ranch but another team is greatly needed. The meadows are run down and yield about half the hay they should. They need plowing and seeding and some need only disking but 2 horses cannot break a disc this tough sod. Another team is needed in haying and in hauling hay to the elk.

The initial cost of a suitable team would be about 400. and a harness about 50



Machinery -

2 mowers  
2 rakes  
1 seed drill  
1 breaking plow

Haying machinery

Mrs. Miller has a lot of machinery on the place that could be bought at a low rate.

### Saddle Horse.

Mr. Nowlin wants a saddle horse & is willing to buy it himself but wants to know if it is all right to keep it on the place. He needs it to ride over the place & to town & to look after the elk & would use it mainly on official business.

He also wants to keep a cow & wants to know if this is all right.

There is abundance of pasture on the place that is not utilized by elk or for hay so the keeping of a cow and horses is of no detriment to the place.

## Zabara.

At present Mr. Nowlin has two excellent young men working on the ranch. They have been haying up to the present time and are now harvesting the oats and when these are stacked they will be about through the summer work. There is fall plowing to be done and a lot of painting ought to be done on the place. Coyotes are numerous and they ought to trap for a month to get them drawn out before the elk come down.

Elk feeding ought to keep them busy most of the winter and they could be used to help count elk over the valley. This is mainly left to forest rangers but they think the BS ought to do some of it.

There is a lot of fencing to  
be done in spring and the buck-  
stick should be made this winter  
~~and~~ The men could help in  
getting out and hauling rails &  
sticks.

There is plenty of work on  
the ranch for two good men  
& two good teams all the  
year and besides all that  
Mr. Nowlin can do.

### Bird refuge -

The wonderful opportunity for an all the year around bird refuge & breeding & wintering grounds is little realized on the elk ranch. The many very large springs are always open and full of ducks and geese & other birds.

By feeding and planting duck foods in the ponds and marshes more birds can be maintained.

A few wild geese nest here in the marshes. Swans used to stop here & could easily be raised.

There are other large springs & ponds down by Mr. Lucks place below Jackson.



Flaps for Elk Ranch

Flaps & bait

Stout

Piper should be in field to  
get trappers started as long as  
necessary and then out in Feb.  
or March to stir them up on  
hunting pups.

- He wants a note of formal  
contract with trappers so they  
will feel responsibility & as a  
certificate of good faith.

Wants more traps &  
must have bait.

United States Department of Agriculture,

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTS AND DISBURSEMENTS,

Washington, D. C.

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8-533

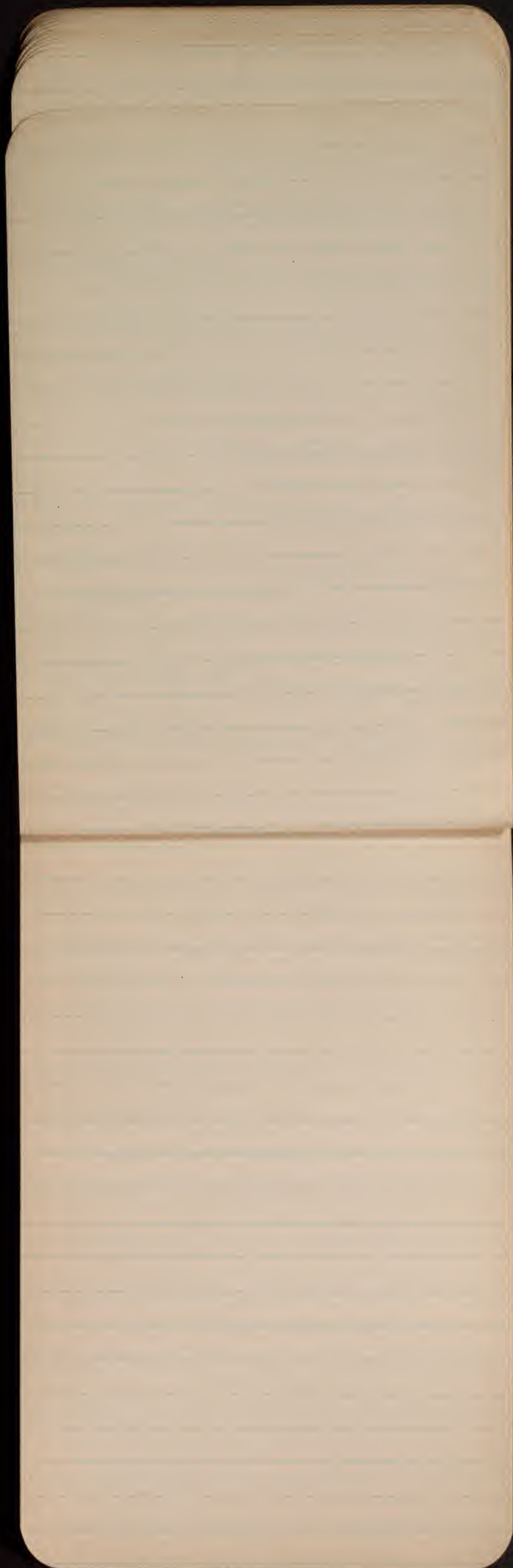
Wants

Piper wants canvas bags and  
Naphtholine (fluid) furnished traps  
in Texas & etc & keep skins for wolves  
until sent in. After arrival,

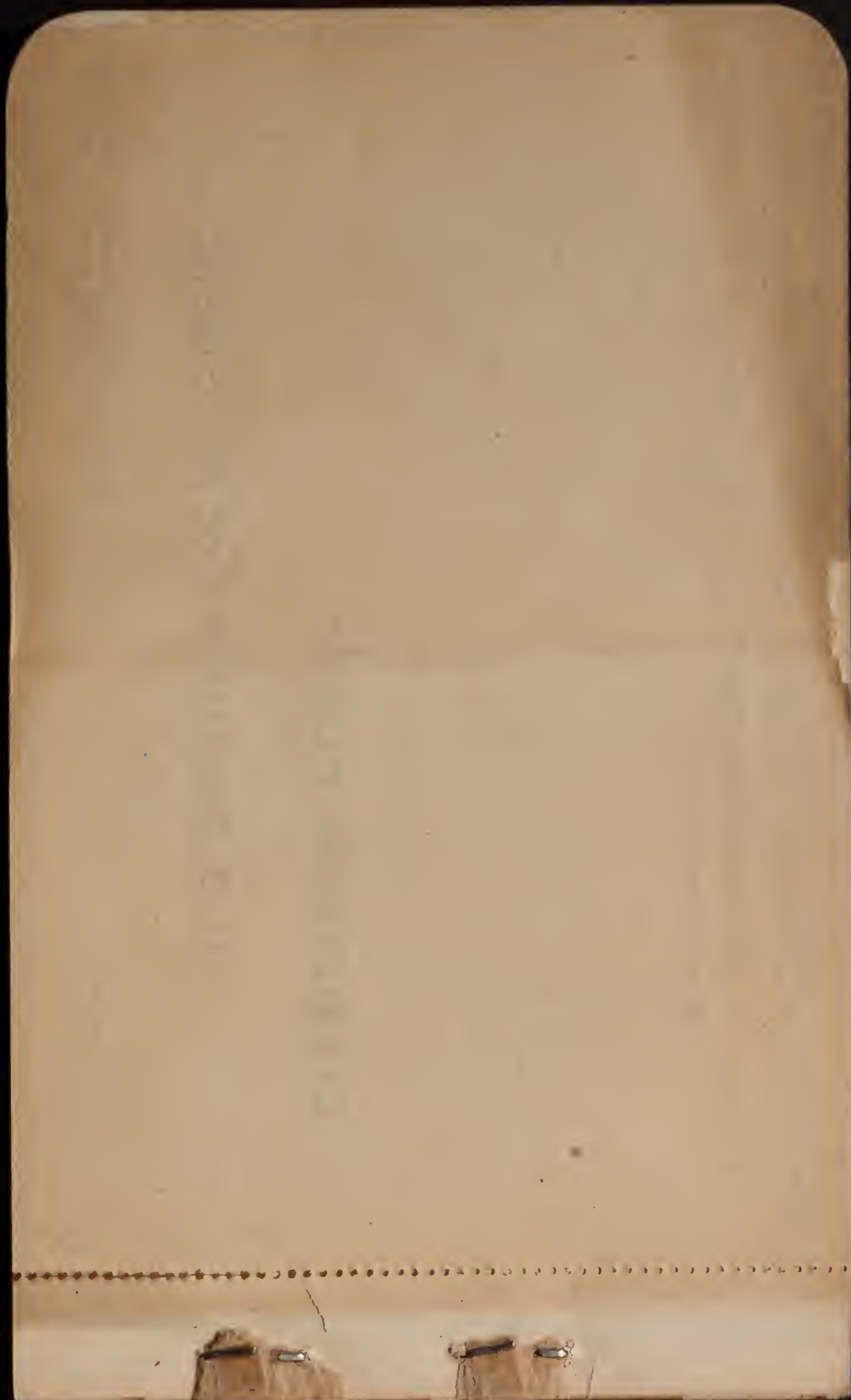
Skulls in Sugar sacks & keep out  
naggets -

Cooperation with Forest Service  
in trapping wolves & coyotes -  
Furnishing traps & bait & information  
for inspectors -

over









Sept. 30 7u.